THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE:

1.   A method of operating a monitoring system using an image capture device, the method characterised by the steps of

    a)   defining a number of sectors on the field of view of the image capture device, and

    b)   assigning independent monitoring and control parameters to each of the sectors.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the positioning and size of the sectors are selectable by an operator of the system.

3.   A method as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each sector can be enabled simultaneously with the other sectors.

4.   A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein each sector has assigned to it at least one event definition parameter.

5.   A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein at least one of the event definitions is motion detection.

6.   A method as claimed in either claim 4 or claim 5 wherein one of the parameters is a control function linked to an event definition.

7.   A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the control function is the storage of data relating to an event.

8.   A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the control function is motion tracking by the image capture device.

9.   A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the control function is the triggering of an alarm.

10.   A monitoring system operable by the method claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 9.

11.   Hardware containing a set of instructions for operation of a monitoring system according to the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.

12.   A camera operable by the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.

13.   A method substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

14.   A monitoring system substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

15.   Hardware substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

16.   A camera substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.